

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15118 121756Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MED-02 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00
PA-01 DHA-05 CA-01 OES-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00 HEW-04
FDRE-00 DODE-00 SCS-03 /136 W
-----063088 121810Z /53

P R 121510Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9324
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOR O/MED AND AID/OFDA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AMED, SWEL
SUBJ: STATUS REPORT -POSSIBILITY OF CHOLERA IN EGYPT

REF CAIRO 14966,

SUMMARY: MIN OF HEALTH IBRAHIM BADRAN TOLD AMB YESTERDAY
THERE ARE NO CONFIRMED CHOLERA CASES IN EGYPT AT THE PRESENT
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TIME. A CARGO SHIP FROM LEBANON, WHICH HAD PROVISIONED THERE,
ARRIVED IN ALEXANDRIA'S OUTER HARBOR WITH 32 CREW MEMBERS ILL,
TWO OF WHICH CASES TURNED OUT BE BE CHOLERA. THIS SHIP
IS NOT BEING PERMITTED TO DOCK. THE MIN CONTINUES TO WATCH
THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND HAS CANCELED LEAVES OF MIN OF
HEALTH PERSONNEL. THE MIN DID NOT MENTION ADEQUACY OF VACCINE
SUPPLY BUT DID EXPRESS HIS CONCERN AT SHORTAGE OF DISPOSABLE

SYRINGES. PRESS REPORT INDICATES EGYPT IS PURCHASNG TEN MILLION DOSES OF VACCINE FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES AND HAS ORDERED EQUIVALENT PRODUCTION DOMESTICALLY. AFTER BAIRAM, MIN PROPOSES TO MAKE NEW ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN SYRIA AND JORDAN AND, IF CIRCUMSTANCES SO INDICATE, WILL BEGIN INOCULATION PROGRAM, GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO HIGH-RISK CATEGORIES. ARMY, POLICE, AIRPORT AND PORT OF ENTRY PERSONNEL HAVE ALREADY BEEN INOCULATED. EMBASSY'S OWN PROGRAM PROCEEDING WELL.
END SUMMARY

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH AMB YESTERDAY, MIN OF HEALTH PROVIDED FOLLOWING UPDATING INFO ON CHOLERA.

2. THERE ARE NO CONFIRMED CASES IN EGYPT AT THE PRESENT TIME. TWO SUSPECTED CASES TURNED OUT TO BE SOMTHING ELSE. (NAMREU DOCTOR ZUHARY FARID CONFIRMS THIS.) HOWEVER, THE MIN IS WATCHING SITUATION VERY CLOSELY WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT SOME CASES COULD DEVELOP SUDDENLY. THE MIN IS KEEPING IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH NAMRU. A SHIP (POSSIBLY OF NORWEGIAN REG FROM LEBANON) WANTING ENTER ALEXANDRIA WAS BOARDED OUTSIDE HARBOR, AND THE BOARDING MED OFFICER REPORTED 32 CREW MEMBERS ILL, OF WHOM AFTER TESTING, TWO TURNED OUT TO BE CHOLERA. WE HAVE AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT ONE MEMBER OF THE CREW DIED. MEDICAL AUTHORITIES ARE KEEPING THE SHIP IN OUTER HARBOR AND NOT PERMITTING IT DO DOCK.

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3. MIN HAS CANCELED ALL LEAVES FOR MIN OF HEALTH PERSONNEL AND IS WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY IN THE SINAI, THE CANAL ZONE AND ALL PORTS OF ENTRY. THE MIN IS CONCERNED CURRENTLY WITH A SHORTAGE OF DISPOSABLE SYRINGES. HE FEARS USE OF CONVENTIONAL SYRINGES COULD BEING HEPATITIS EPIDEMIC. HE DID NOT MENTION THE ADEQUANCY OF SUPPLIES OF VACCINE. ON SEP 9, HOWEVER, EMBOFF LEARNED THROUGH WHO SOURCES THAT EGYPT CONTEMPLATED PRUCHASING ADDITIONAL VACCINE. THIS IS CONFIRMED IN THE SEP 9 EDITION OF AL-AHRAM IN A STORY STATING THE EGYPT WAS BUYING 10 MILLION DOES FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES AND HAD ORDERED AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT TO BE MANUFACTURES IN COUNTRY. AID HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ASKED TO ASSIST EITHER IN THE PROCUREMENT OF VACCINE OR SYRINGES.

4. THUS FAR, INOCULATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ARMY, POLICE, AIRPORT AND PORT OF ENTRY PERSONNEL. AFTER THE BAAIRAM INTERVAL, THE MIN PROPOSES TO TAKE A NEW ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SYRIA AND JORDAN. IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEN WARRANT, HE PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE AN INOCULATION PROGRAM GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO HIGH RISK CATEGORIES SUCH AS STUDENTS, ETC. HE IS NOT CURRENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF A MASS INOCULATION PROGRAM ACROSS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF THE POPULATION BUT IS

PREPARING TO INOCULATE HIGH-RISK GROUPS.

5. EMBASSY PROCEEDED WITH ITS INOCULATION PROGRAM REPORTED
PARA 7 REFTEL. 250 INOCULATIONS WERE GIVEN SATURDAY
TO 85 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS, 50 DOMESTIC
SERVANTS IN AMERICAN HOMES, AND THE BALANCE WERE ADMIN-
ISTERED TO EGYPTIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE MISSION. OUR SUPPLY
OF VACCINE AND SYRINGES CONTINUES TO BE ADQUATE, AND WE
ARE CONTINUING THE PROGRAM FOR PERSONNEL IN THESE CATEGORIES
WHO REQUEST INOCULATIONS.
EILS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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